

REMARKS

Claim 18 has been rewritten as an independent claim. Claims 20-30, all of which depend from claim 18, directly or indirectly, have been added. The new claims are supported throughout the application as filed, e.g., at page 2, line 25; page 8, lines 7-30; and original claims 1-3. No new matter has been added.

Restriction requirement

Responsive to the restriction requirement mailed September 15, 2003, Applicants elect the invention of Group V, drawn to a method of eliciting an antibody response. Claim 18 and new claims 20-30 are encompassed by Group V. The election is made with traverse for at least the reasons discussed below.

A proper requirement for restriction requires two conditions. The inventions must be independent (i.e., unconnected in design, operation or effect) or distinct (i.e., related but novel and unobvious over each other) and there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is required. See MPEP §803. The claims are all limited by reference to a novel NNV coat protein identified as SEQ ID NO:2. Because all the groups could be searched by merely searching this sequence, the Examiner has not established that a serious burden would be involved in searching all the groups together. Thus, the second condition for a proper restriction requirement has not been met. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction groups be rejoined and examined together.

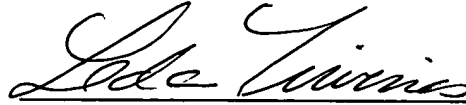
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Enclosed is a check for excess claim fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to
Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 15 October 2003



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